

requested to reconsider the restriction requirement in view of the remarks as set forth hereinbelow.

The Examiner has set forth a restriction requirement with regard to claims 1-19. The grouping of the claims is set forth as follows:

GROUP	CLAIMS	CLASSIFICATION
I	1-10	Class 164, Subclass 56.1
II	11-19	Class 164, Subclass 349

Applicants have elected claims 1-10 for initial examination. However, it is respectfully submitted that the restriction requirement is improper in view of the fact that no serious burden is presented to the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application.

As set forth in Section 803 of the MPEP, the Examiner must examine an application on the merits if the examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden. Two criteria are identified for a proper requirement for restriction:

1. The inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and
2. There must be a serious burden on the Examiner if the restriction is not required.

Applicants respectfully submit that a serious burden has not been placed on the Examiner to consider all of the claims in a single application. A review of the subject matter set forth in claims 1-10 would include a review of class 164 subclass 56.1 and class 164, subclass 349. Thus, a different field of search really does not exist with regard to the claims of the present application.

In order to be responsive to the Examiner's restriction requirement, claims 1-10 have been initially elected. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the restriction requirement and act on all of the claims in the present application. If the Examiner does persist in the restriction requirement, the right to file a divisional application directed to the non-elected claims at a later date, if desired, is reserved.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge Applicants' claim for foreign priority. In view of the fact that the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

The Official Draftsperson has not approved the Formal Drawings submitted by the Applicants. It is respectfully submitted that the drawings comply with the requirements of the USPTO. If the Official Draftsperson has any objections to the Formal Drawings he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned as soon as possible so that appropriate action may be taken. No further action is believed to be necessary at this time unless the undersigned receives a notice from the Official Draftsperson.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

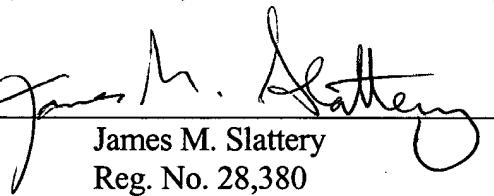
On March 22, 2002, Applicants filed an Information Disclosure Statement in connection with the present application. In addition, a second Information Disclosure Statement is being filed concurrently herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to consider the two Information Disclosure Statements and to initial and return the PTO-1449 attached to the two Information Disclosure Statements.

Favorable action on the present application is earnestly solicited.

Please charge any fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

Respectfully submitted,

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